

2 Corinthians 8:20

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Avoiding this, that no man should blame us in this abundance which is administered by us:

Analysis

Avoiding this, that no man should blame us in this abundance which is administered by us—Paul explains precautionary wisdom: stellomenoi touto (στελλόμενοι τοῦτο, 'avoiding this/taking precaution against this'), namely mē tis hēmas mōmēsētai (μή τις ἡμᾶς μωμήσηται, 'lest anyone blame us') regarding tē hadroptēti tautē (τῇ ἀδρότητι ταύτῃ, 'this abundance/generosity'). The word hadrotēs (ἀδρότης, 'abundance/bounty') emphasizes the collection's substantial size—enough money to attract suspicion and temptation. Diakonoumenē hyph' hēmōn ('being administered by us') acknowledges Paul's organizational role and potential vulnerability to accusation.

This verse reveals Paul's integrity and prudence: he knows that even unfounded accusations can destroy ministry credibility. By involving multiple church-appointed delegates, he insulates himself from charges of embezzlement or favoritism. The care to avoid mōmēsētai ('blame/censure') shows awareness that Christian leaders must be above reproach, especially regarding money (1 Timothy 3:2-3, Titus 1:7). Paul's opponents had already accused him of financial manipulation (2 Corinthians 12:16-18); he refuses to provide ammunition for such charges by handling funds personally or without witnesses.

Historical Context

Financial scandal destroyed many religious movements in antiquity. Itinerant philosophers and religious teachers were often suspected of profiting from

followers. Paul addressed such suspicions throughout his ministry by working for his own support (Acts 18:3, 1 Thessalonians 2:9) and meticulously accounting for charitable funds. His insistence on accountability anticipated modern best practices for nonprofit financial management.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How should Christian leaders and organizations ensure financial accountability today?
2. Why must those handling church funds be 'above reproach,' not merely innocent?
3. What safeguards prevent financial misconduct in your church or Christian organizations you support?

Interlinear Text

στελλόμενοι	τοῦτο	μή	τις	ήμας	μωμήσηται	ἐν	τῇ
Avoiding	this	that no	man	us	should blame	in	which
G4724	G5124	G3361	G5100	G2248	G3469	G1722	G3588

ἀδρότητι	ταύτῃ	τῇ	διακονουμένῃ	ὑφ'	ήμῶν·
abundance	G3778	which	is administered	by	us
G100	G3588		G1247	G5259	G2257